

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



GILLINGHAM PRIMARY ACADEMY

2 December 2022



Message from our Executive Head, Mrs. Brand: On Sunday we move into the second Sunday of advent. We learn about advent and the Christmas story as part of our curriculum. I'm always amazed by how much the children fit into a school day, with all parts of our day offering them different types of learning. Collective worship (assembly) is an important feature of our school day, this is a time when we create some stillness, pause and reflect. I know staff are always impressed by the thoughtfulness of the children in responding to discussions about a variety of themes during this time, including sharing compassion and a desire for peace from some of the challenges happening in the world at present.

At school, as I'm sure there is in your homes, there's a real sense of busyness at this time of year as we prepare for various festive activities. It's very important that amongst all of that, time can be found for moments of peace and moments of stillness. I am delighted to welcome you to share in the busyness of school and take part in some of our activities over the next couple of weeks (please see dates section for details). I also hope that you're able to find your own stillness at some point in this very hectic time of year. Wishing you peace and love this Christmas time.

SKYLARKS This week we have celebrated the start of advent by making a class advent calendar, we have also been creating artwork of the three kings. In science we have been making touchy feely plates for different properties and of course lots of practising and singing in preparation for our school play!

MALLARDS A huge well done to all the children who attended the Unihoc tournament. You were all a credit to Gillingham St Michael's School. You encouraged each other and were polite and friendly to the other schools in the tournament. We are all very proud of you.

The children have been really thoughtful Geographer's this week. you have looked at the causes of deforestation in the Amazon rainforest and the impact it has on the rest of the world. you have begun to write Save the Rainforest posters based on what you've learnt. In DT, your sewing has been really impressive and your Christmas decorations are looking amazing. Miss Church has been really impressed with the Christmas surveys you have created for ICT lessons.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS WEEKS WINNERS:

*TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS – SWAN CLASS
KINGFISHER WINGS READING – SKYLARKS CLASS*

ATTENDANCE Many thanks for your support with attendance. This week our whole school attendance figure was **95.79%**.

UPCOMING DATES

- 08/12: Skylarks Christmas Play – arrive at 1.30pm.
- 09/12: 2pm Family Christmas Craft Session.
- 10/12: Friends Elf Trail & Christmas Fair at The Wherry Inn, Geldeston, 4-8pm.
- 14/12: Y6 NCMP Weight & Height Screening.
- 14/12: Christmas Lunch.
- 15/12: Whole School to Pantomime.
- 16/12: Nelsons Journey Rudolph Run.
- 16/12: 2pm Christmas Carol Service at Geldeston Church.
- 16/12: Last Day of Autumn Term 2!

All dates can be viewed on our school calendar via our website:

<http://www.gillingham.dneat.org/calendar/>

SWANS This week swans have been busy on their DT project for this half term. They were tasked with looking at, designing and making a Christmas decoration to hang from a tree. This has involved looking at products already on the market and what they are made of, then designing their own decoration. They then had a go at blanket, cross and running stitch. Each of them had to make their own pattern, cut out all their fabrics, sew on all the decorations and pieces together by hand. They have really risen to the challenge and are excited to bring home before Christmas their final product. We are very proud of them all.

WHO'S WHO

Name: Miss Holland

Role: Apprentice Teaching Assistant in Skylarks

Favourite School Subjects: English

Hobbies: I love going swimming and going for walks with my little dog, Max. I can't wait for Christmas!

